

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF *ASKLEPIA*  
LIEBKE, 1938, WITH THE DESCRIPTION  
OF A NEW SPECIES  
(COLEOPTERA, CARABIDAE)

HANS REICHARDT

Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo,  
São Paulo, Brazil

ABSTRACT

*Asklepia ocellata*, sp. n. (type-locality, Brazil, Amazonas, Tapuruquara), is described and compared to *Asklepia strandi* Liebke, 1938, the only species formerly known in the genus. The systematic position of the genus is discussed together with the structure of the tribe Lachnophorini of Carabidae.

The genus *Asklepia* was described by Liebke (1938:113) in a paper entitled "Denkschrift über die Carabiden-Tribus Colliurini". As mentioned in the introduction, Liebke considered Anchonoderini (at present part of Agonini), Ctenodactylini and most genera of Lachnophorini (both distinct tribes) as part of his Colliurini.

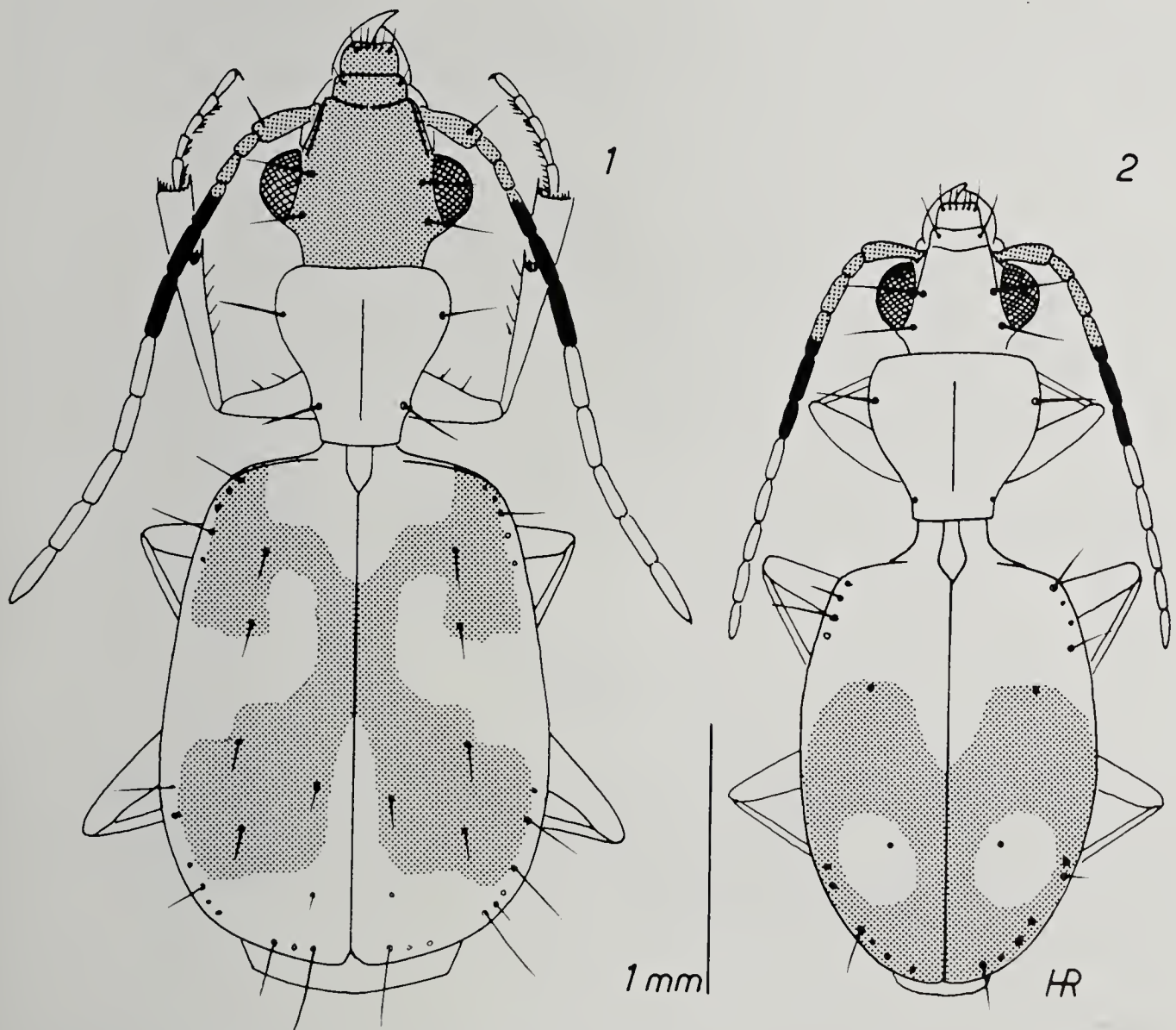


Fig. 1. *Asklepia strandi* Liebke (Santarém). Fig. 2. *Asklepia ocellata*, sp. n. (holotype).

The monotypic *Asklepia* (described for *strandii*, a new species from "Guiana"—the single known specimen, originally placed in Liebke's private collection, was most probably destroyed), is actually related to *Calybe* and *Ega*, both described by Castelnau, and any relation to Colliurini is due only to external resemblance.

Jeannel (1948:743) proposed the subdivision of Lachnophorini (his Lachnophoritae) in Lachnophorina (his Lachnophorini) and Selinina (his Selinini), based on the different form of the 2 apical segments of the maxillary palpi. In Lachnophorina the last segment would be "très renflé et pubescent", while in Selinina the last segment would be "subulé, très petit et glabre". Jeannel exemplified the palpi of Lachnophorina with *Ega sallei* Chevrolat, 1839 (Jeannel, 1948: fig. 252). I have not seen this species, but have studied several unidentified Brazilian species of *Ega*, as well as *Calybe basalis* Bates, 1871, and *C. puncticollis* Chaudoir, 1872, and in all species the structure of the maxillary palpi is that of *Asklepia strandii* Liebke, 1938 (fig. 4). This structure is reminiscent of the palpi of Bembidiini; in these Lachnophorini, however, the small apical point is not a distinct segment as in *Bembidion*, but part of the inflated apical segment. The subtribe Selinina of Jeannel must thus be suppressed.

These studies were based on the collection of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, in which 2 different species of *Asklepia* are represented.

*Asklepia strandii* Liebke, 1938 (fig. 1, 3-7), was collected by myself at light in the Brazilian state of Pará, at Santarém (2 males, 6 females) and Pacoval (1 female). These specimens agree with the original description; however, they

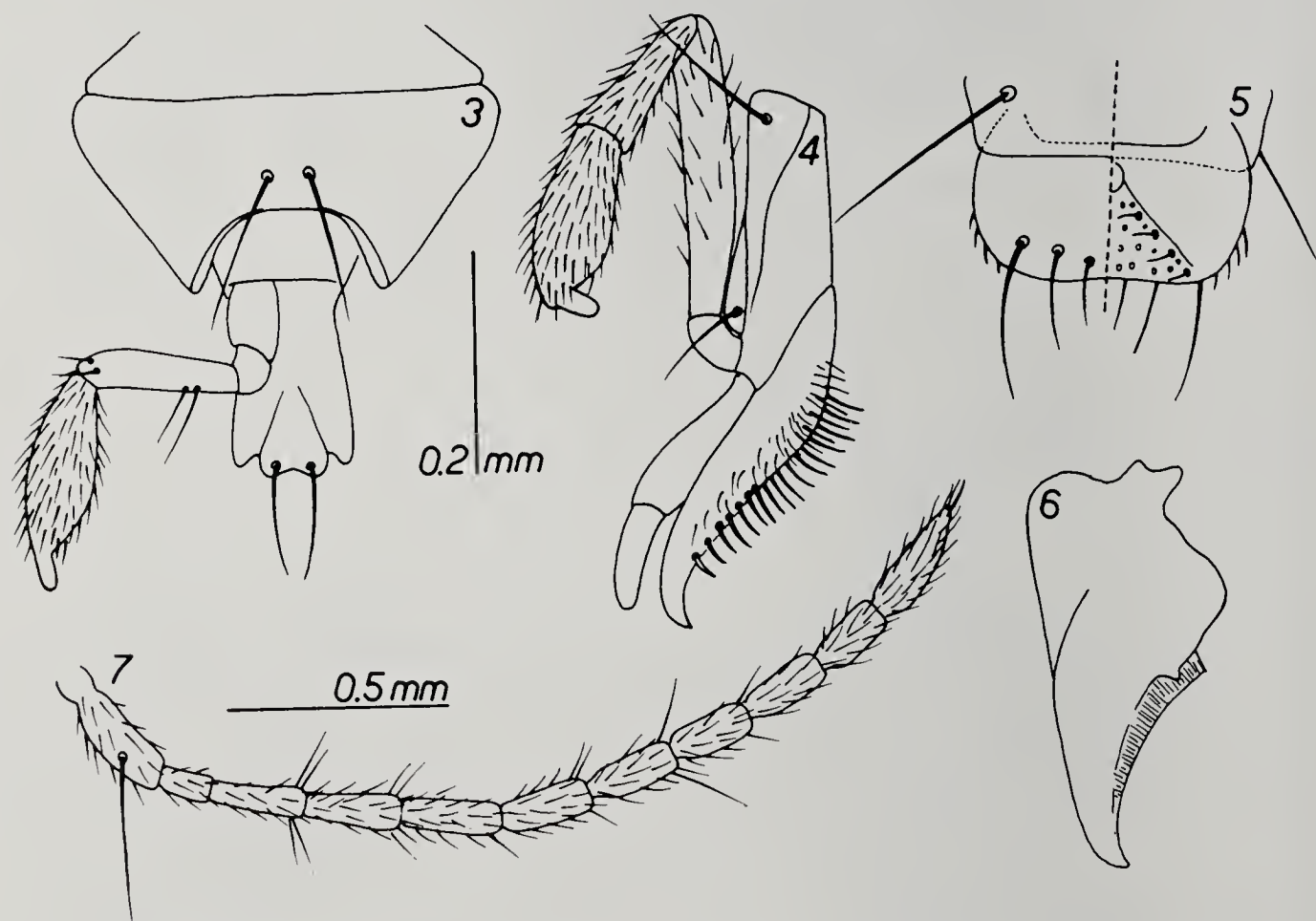


Fig. 3-7. *Asklepia strandii* Liebke (male from Santarém): 3) labium; 4) maxilla; 5) labrum (dorsal view on left, ventral view on right); 6) mandible; 7) antenna.



show that the elytral pattern is somewhat variable. As the original description, complemented by my illustrations, is sufficient for recognition, a redescription is unnecessary.

The second species is new, and is described below.

*Asklepia ocellata* Reichardt, **new species**  
(Fig. 2)

Holotype and 6 paratypes, BRAZIL, Amazonas: Tapuruquara, 5-11.II.1963 (J. & B. Bechyné). 11 paratypes, Pará: Utinga, 25.IV.1961 (J. & B. Bechyné). 10 paratypes, Mato Grosso: Cuiabá, Fazenda Ricardo Franco, 15-16.III.1961 (J. & B. Bechyné). 3 paratypes, Mato Grosso: Itiquira, Rio Corrente, 6.VIII.1973 (H. Reichardt & S.A. Vanin). 1 paratype, Goiás: Goiânia, 24-25.III.1961 (J. & B. Bechyné). 1 paratype, Goiás: 30 km N Gurupi de Goiás, 30.V.1966 (H. Reichardt).

Body light reddish-brown, except elytra, with a dark brown, almost black area in posterior half, as outlined in Fig. 2, with an enclosed, yellowish, ocellar spot on each elytron. Legs light testaceous. Antennae: 3 basal segments and basal 0.75 of IV, reddish-brown; apex of IV and segments V, VI, black; apical segments white. Total length, 2.9mm.

DISCUSSION: *Asklepia ocellaris* is readily distinguished from *Asklepia strandi* by a series of characters: much smaller size, head colored as pronotum (darker than pronotum in *strandi*), different shape of pronotum, and especially lack of the small angle at insertion of posterior pronotal setae; different shape of elytra, and especially different elytral pattern. In both species the elytra are very smooth, without striae (seen from certain angles, there is a slight indication of striation, especially near suture). The unstriated elytra, as well as the practically glabrous dorsal surface, distinguish the genus *Asklepia* from the remaining Neotropical Lachnophorini.

*Asklepia ocellaris* is a quite common species in the states of Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Pará. In Goiás (30 km N of Gurupi de Goiás) I have collected the species running along the sandy beach of a creek, together with a large series of an undetermined species of *Ega*; at Rio Corrente (State of Mato Grosso), the species was collected under leaves on wet rocks at the edges of a waterfall. This indicates that *Asklepia ocellata* occurs in riparian habitats.

Due to the very small size of the species, I was unable to sex the specimens. Front tarsi are apparently not furnished with papillate hairs, as I have observed in *Asklepia strandi*.

#### REFERENCES

- JEANNEL, R. 1948. Coléoptères Carabiques de la Région Malgache. (Deuxième Partie). Faune de l'Empire Français 10:373-765, Fig. 170-364.  
LIEBKE, M. 1938. Denkschrift über die Carabiden-Tribus Colliurini. Festschrift Embrik Strand 4:37-141, 145 Fig. (1937).

